# News Release

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## Updated COVID-19 Booster Vaccine Available

**FREDERICK, MD –** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has authorized and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) now recommends updated COVID-19 boosters from Pfizer-BioNTech for people ages 12 years and older and from Moderna for people ages 18 years and older. This is a single booster dose administered at least two months after completing the primary vaccination series or a booster vaccination.

The updated bivalent boosters contain mRNA from the original strain of the virus as well as Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 to help boost immunity to the currently circulating variants. This is similar to how influenza vaccines are updated yearly to match the viruses that are in the community.

The Frederick County Health Department (FCHD) will begin offering appointments for the updated booster today, **Wednesday, September 7th,** at 585 Himes Ave. in Frederick, MD. Go to FrederickCountyMD.gov/CovidVaccine to schedule an appointment. Updated boosters are only available to people who have already received previous COVID-19 vaccinations and appointments are required.

COVID-19 vaccines are free and insurance is not required. Please do not come more than 15 minutes before your appointment to help us avoid long lines. Please do not come to a vaccination clinic if you have any symptoms, or if you are waiting for COVID-19 test results.

For help scheduling an appointment, call 855-MDGoVax (855-634-6829) between 8am and 8pm, seven days a week. Other nearby vaccine clinic options are listed at covidvax.maryland.gov or vaccines.gov.

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